

GCWS Juried Exhibition Rules

Board approved January xx, 2026

Important - Please read carefully: Failure to meet any listed conditions may result in non-acceptance of entry.

- GCWS reserves the right to refuse any painting for reasons of condition, failure to follow entry requirements or content inappropriate to the show venue.
- Artist's signature on entry form is agreement to all exhibition rules, as well as permission to use image of artwork in publicity and on the GCWS website.

Dates: 1 - Post prospectus/open entries 2 - Entry & digital image deadline 3 - Deliver digital images to juror
4 - Juror's results returned 5 - Acceptance letters delivered 6 - Delivery/hanging paintings
7 - Show opening 8 - Artist's reception 9 - Show close/painting pickup

Eligibility

- Current paid membership in GCWS.
- Artwork completed within last 12 months preceding show.
- 100% Original work - artist solely completed all aspects of piece. (original from concept to full execution). Unacceptable entries include anything derived from any one else's photo, artwork, published materials or reproductions, AI assistance in any way, or pieces created in workshops or under instruction.
- Artwork must be complete at time of entry and if accepted, must remain on display for the duration of the show.
- **Entry form must include digital image of submitted artwork (see instructions for digital image on page 2).**

Artwork

Paint surface

- Paper designed for water media such as cotton rag and wood pulp, plus watercolor board and illustration board. Unacceptable surfaces include synthetic paper (Yupo), aqua-board, clayboard or canvas.

Media - must be diluted with water to paint in a flat aqueous manner, no texture or impasto.

- Watercolor paint (tube, pan, stick, pencil, crayon), acrylic, guache, ink, casein. Unacceptable media include egg tempera, water soluble oils, metallics/opalescent and collage.
- Graphite pencil only for base drawing lines acceptable, and if visible must be less than 10% of the painting.
- Stamping as an element is acceptable if the stamp is created by the artist, done with watercolor and is less than 20% of the composition.

Size

- Minimum - visible artwork must be at least 10 x 10 inch. If design includes some white space, such as a vignette, the actual painted portion of the image must conform to the 10 x 10 minimum and the white space should be sized appropriately to the paint area. ([see page 2 for examples](#))
- Maximum - 40 x 40 inch of visible painting.

Presentation - Framing, matting and glazing required.

• Frames

- Size

- Minimum - Sufficient to hold 10 x 10 inch artwork in 14 x 14 inch mat.
- Maximum - Outer edge of molding no more than 48 x 48 inch.

- Description

- Wood or metal, maximum width of molding 3 inch. Vinyl and plastic frames not acceptable.
- Plain, no ornate carving or fancy paint techniques.
- Colors - If wood: natural wood tones, black, or white. If metal: black, white, silver or gold.
- Condition - firm construction with tight corners, dent and scrape free.
- Hanger - braided picture frame wire and D rings screwed into frame. No eye bolts. Wire firmly attached in upper 1/3rd of frame and when hung, highest point of center of the wire is no less than 2 inches below edge of frame. ([see page 2 for illustrations of hanging wire installation](#))
- Dust cover - paper cover secured to back of frame on wood frames. On metal frames, plain, clean backing board.
- Label - Entry form label, complete with artist's name and title of painting securely attached to upper left corner of back of painting.

• Mat(s)

- Single mat required, double mat acceptable if no more than 1/4 inch of lower mat visible and same color as top mat.
- Mat must have minimum of 2 inch visible on each side, large paintings should have appropriately wider mats.
- Mats must be clean, free of marks or foreign matter under the glazing and well cut.
- Acceptable colors are white and off white (cream boards labeled "off white" are okay).

• Glazing

- All pieces must have glazing. Plexiglas recommended. Frames under 20 x 24 inch may use glass. All larger or heavy frames must use Plexiglas to prevent hanging and handling problems caused by excessive heaviness.
- Plexiglas should be clean, scratch and fingerprint free.

GCWS Juried Exhibition Rules - cont.

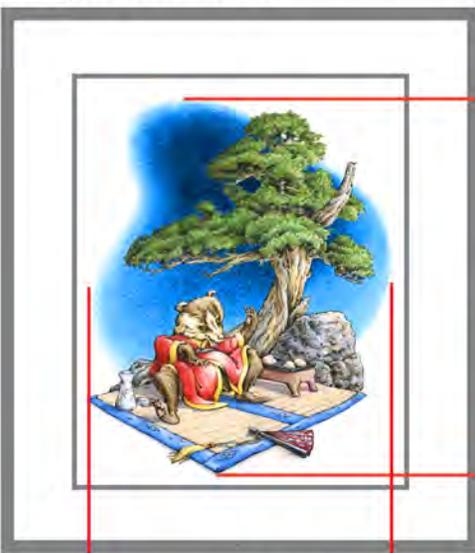
Digital image entry info

- Digital image must accompany entry form and fee.
- Format - JPG file, 1800 pixels maximum on longest side of image, 300 dpi, maximum 3.5 MB, RGB
- Image should be cropped to artwork only, no mat or frame visible, in good focus, and right side up. (tutorials and info for creating digital file from a photo are available on-line)
- Color should be adjusted to match actual painting. When painting arrives at show, if it is noticeably different than the digital entry, it may be refused.

White space

Description of proper white spacing for paintings whose design does not fill the opening in the mat.

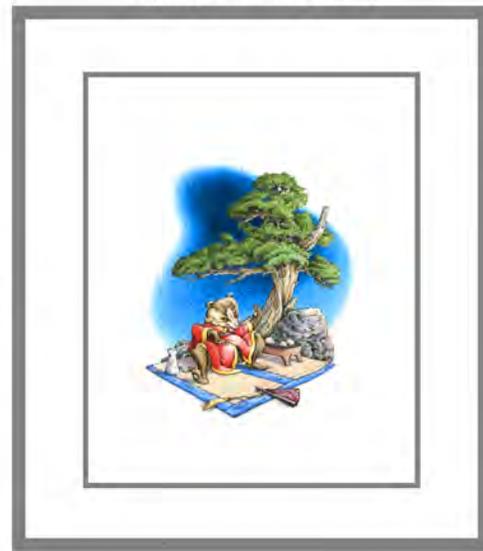
White space between edge of painted area and inner edge of mat should be appropriate to the design, not excessively wide.



Tallest height of painted area must = 10" or greater

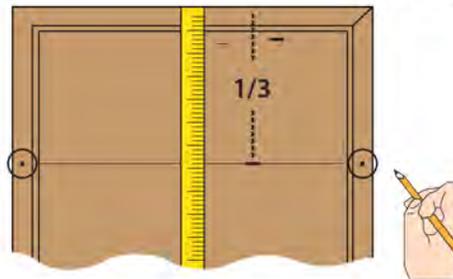
Largest width of painted area must = 10" or greater

Improper white spacing

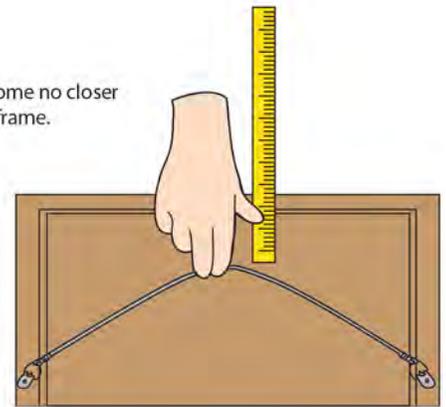


Wire installation

Place D ring mounts down approximately 1/3 the height of the frame with secure screws.



Stretched wire should come no closer than 2 inch from top of frame.



Securing wire to D ring

- 1 - Cut a piece of wire 4 - 6 inches wider than frame.
- 2 - Loop about 2 inches of wire through the ring and follow the illustrated steps.
- 3 - Repeat on other ring, leaving a small amount of slack in wire.

